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and of the practice of levying tribute that the break in the unity of the author's theme becomes all the more perceptible.

As a study in diplomacy from a new viewpoint—that of the navy—the book is a valuable contribution to American diplomacy. It is authoritative and contains valuable footnotes with references to original sources and correspondence, that indicate the wide range of the author's research and authority.

CHARLES E. ASNIS.

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Porter, Robert P. *The Full Recognition of Japan.* Pp. x, 789. Price \$4.00. New York: Oxford University Press, 1911.

Changes in Japan are so great and her growth so rapid that even recent books dealing with the economic and social conditions of that empire are out of date. Hence this latest and comprehensive work, which is "a detailed account of the economic progress of the Japanese Empire to 1911," is most welcome by students of the Far East. It supplies a great need. It has brought together, in one large volume and in most available form, the essential facts of the intensely interesting story of Japan's phenomenal progress in recent years, not simply in economic growth, as the sub-title indicates, but also, in some degree, in its social, political, educational, military and literary advancement.

The book, however, is far more than a handbook on Japan, although by virtue of the great variety of topics treated and the marshaling of the latest facts and figures in connection with those topics, it may well serve that purpose. It is an explanation and interpretation of the progress of Japan given by a careful and sympathetic observer and student. The reader may feel that at times the author's optimistic views in regard to Japan's economic and political future are a result of a very apparent warm sympathy for and admiration of the Japanese, and may not be altogether warranted by the facts, as measured by her resources. It is true that very little is said of Japan's disadvantages or of existing evils and deficiencies. But it must be remembered that this book is a record of progress, not of failures; of things done, not of reforms that must be effected. And thus, measured by her accomplishments in the brief space of forty years, Japan's progress is nothing short of phenomenal in all departments of life, be it political, industrial or social. The reading of this book cannot but strengthen and prove this assertion. That there are physical limitations to this development, however, must be recognized. But the author is even more sanguine in his belief in the industrial future of Japan than many of the Japanese themselves.

The forty-nine chapters into which the book is divided may be grouped under four heads. The first six chapters are historical, tracing the national and economic development of Japan from early times through the period of the Shogunate and the period of reconstruction to the "full recognition of Japan" in recent years as a Power of the first class. In these chapters it is interesting to note the author's recognition of the influence of geographical features upon the Japanese character and development. The next group of chapters (vii to xxvii) may be regarded as dealing principally with the commercial geography of Japan. Here are chapters on the physical characteristics of the islands; the population; soil, forests and mineral resources; industrial progress; trade; cities, etc. Chapters on the

army and navy, education, municipal progress, and finance are also to be found in this group. The third group (chapters xxviii to xxxvii) deals with social and art conditions. Here are discussed Japanese painting, sculpture, literature, journalism, drama and music, as well as such subjects as Japanese philanthropy, prison reform, etc. The fourth group of chapters is devoted to the colonial possessions, their resources, administration and value to Japan.

In style, the book is clear and most readable; its typographical form pleasing. Marginal paragraph headings add to its value as a book of reference. The several colored maps possess the very great advantage of clearness, due to the exclusion of detail and the insertion of only the important and essential.

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Reinsch, Paul S. *Public International Unions.* Pp. viii, 189. Price \$1.65. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1911.

In this interesting book, Professor Reinsch has, if the reviewer is not mistaken, given us the first systematic treatment of international unions which has appeared in the English language. At the same time that the codification and comprehension of the rules of international law based on the equality of states is progressing rapidly, the governments of the world have formed associations for the supervision and discussion of certain interests, too broad in their scope to be independently controlled by any one state. Take the Universal Postal Union for example. The simplicity and effectiveness of the world-wide postal communications depends upon the acceptance by all the nations of the world of a uniform rate of postage and a proportional share of the expense and profits. Such a universal agreement could not, of course, be reached by means of separate agreements between the different countries of the world. A conference of delegates from the different nations was necessary. With the ever-increasing development of international relations, it has been found necessary to create other unions to look after economic, sanitary, and scientific interests.

When any matter assumes sufficient importance to justify international regulation an international conference of delegates of all the interested powers is called and a convention embodying certain unanimously accepted principles is adopted. This convention ordinarily provides for the calling of periodic congresses to modify the convention, and, also, establishes a central office or bureau as it is called. This central bureau receives all information regarding the particular matter committed to its charge and publishes reports, giving information and making suggestions for the further improvement of the service. It is very noteworthy that the periodic congresses called to legislate for the furtherance of the purpose of the union is not a body where the representative or delegate from one state may block by his vote the adoption of any proposal, but a majority vote of the delegates present is sufficient to put through a measure. International unions have, furthermore, broken away from the unworkable theory of the equality of states. Great empires, such as Great Britain, sent delegates to each administratively independent territory like Canada and Australia. With such a system it is possible for an international union to transact its affairs in much the same way that a large corporation would look after its interests.